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ST. PETER'S CHURCH 1905.

A S O U V E N I R O F ^C

Old St. Peter's

A N D O F

Hobart Village, N.Y.

Compiled by the

Rev. R. M. Turner

and Published by


The Ladies' Guild

Price Twenty-five Cents

1905

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Hobart, N. Y.



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ST. PETER'S RECTORY AND OLD OAK TREE.

The Old Book

OF the many books—old and time worn, musty and yellowed that it has been my fortune to look into none has affected me as has the Book of Records of Old “St. Peter’s Church of the United Parishes of Stamford, Harpersfield and Kortright.” I thought when I took it up that I should read the first page or two, glance at a few more here and there, gleaning a few ideas of this aged parish from its dry and uninteresting pages and hand it back to be locked up again in its safe hiding place. Instead, reading on from page to page everything else was forgotten as there was unfolded before me a romance of days long forgotten, of bright days and dark, of hardships and toils and victories won—a tale of small beginnings and many disappointments, a tale of the yearnings of devoted men and women and of their labors that “the Gospel of Christ should flourish in this rude and uncultivated forest.” A story of their longings fulfilled and their labors rewarded as they saw a beautiful church rise, verily hewed out from that same “rude forest,” God’s house, standing high upon the hill in the midst of their humble dwellings, to bring the great blessing of His Presence among them. And there I thought I should stop, but the fascination of the old book held me in thrall as night after night I continued to puzzle on over the quaint handwriting and fading ink of those men of old-fashion who all unconscious were

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

making there a history of their souls' interest for us who follow them accepting as our heritage the fruit of their labors. And how many laborers does God raise up in His vineyard! Such numbers of earnest people have contributed their share here to the cultivation of the garden of the Prince of the Apostles! Not more than two or three of them have been known outside of their own humble sphere of life. No other book written by man, perhaps, contains their names, yet are they all written with their deeds in God's "book of remembrance." And now "they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them."



AN OLD TIME PICTURE OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

Old St. Peter's

THE first record in the parish register is of the baptism of two children by the Rev. Ebenezer Dibblee, D. D., a priest of whose travels records are found in many old registers in this part of the country. He seems to have always exercised his ministry wherever his wanderings led him. In 1794 the Rev. Walter Clark Gardner, Rector of the church in Hudson, took a vacation trip through the Catskills, following in Dr. Dibblee's footsteps and while on his way stopped twice in Waterville, now known as Hobart. Here on the evening of St. Peter's Day (I quote his own words) "finding a number of earnest church people, I was persuaded to give a church service and sermon at the house of Stephen Bartow, after supper and before sunset; this was the first church service ever held in their midst. The people seemed much in earnest, and after the service I baptized two children. Next day I spent advising many who were anxious to found a congregation and build a house of God." Thus was begun a glorious work.

On December 8th of the same year, the people were convened, the first trustees elected and all was done according to law, for the incorporation of the parish of the Episcopal Church of St. Peter's in the townships of Stamford, Harpersfield and Kortright. The names of those first trustees were: Augustus Bates, Gershom Hanford,

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

Elijah Baldwin, Ebenezer Sturges, Henry Bradford, Truman Beers, Andrew Beers, Stephen Bartow, Moses Sackrider.

At a meeting of the trustees, held February 28th, 1796, it was

“RESOLVED, That the church be immediately united with the churches of New York, and that the Right Rev. Father in God, Samuel Provost, D. D., of New York, is hereby acknowledged Bishop, and we do from these presents, agree for ourselves, and in behalf of this church, to pay unto the said Samuel, all Episcopal obedience.”

The parish was admitted to union with the Diocese of New York, October 12th, 1796, the Rev. W. C. Gardner being rector. The first wardens were Ebenezer Sturges and Andrew Beers.

The first vestrymen were Joshua Nash, James Wetmore, Joseph Hurd, Stephen Bartow, Truman Beers, Abijah Seeley, Perry Sturges and Augustus Bates.

At a meeting of the trustees on July 13th, 1795, plans were first made for a church building on a plot of ground on the knoll at the junction of the Township Road and the Clove Road, and credentials were given to Andrew Hurd for raising money by subscription for the building. The ground chosen was to be given by Francis Clark. There was much controversy over the location of the building, however, and notwithstanding it was several times voted to proceed with the building on the Township Road, this location was not satisfactory to the people and in June 1801, six years after the first plans, it was voted

**A House of
Worship**



ST. PETER'S CHURCH—INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR. THE RECTORY
1885.

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

“ to make an everlasting peace and final decision and to unite in one ” by a vote of all the people.

The final decision was by a vote of 46 to 13 in favor of Beers's Pine Hill which we now know as Church Hill. The building committee consisted of Andrew and Truman Beers, John B. Hall, Comfort Butler and Peter Knapp. The work was begun on July 4th, 1801. On that day there were two picnic dinners, held by the two parties, one at the old site on the Township Road and one on Church Hill, after which all ill feeling was cast aside.

The building was sufficiently completed on December 17th, 1801 so that a meeting was held there for the election of a rector, which was adjourned to another place “ on account of the intense cold.” In June 1802, the church was ordered painted. There is no record showing when the interior was finished and pews put in, but there was much difficulty experienced in raising the money necessary to do it. In 1822 the pews are mentioned as being there. An early picture shows the old “ three decker,” consisting of Communion Table, reading desk and pulpit, the latter reached by a long winding stairway. Imagine the quaint old scene today—the preacher attired in black gown and bands, climbing up the high stairs and shutting himself into his elevated station, so as to be seen by the people, comfortably settled in their high, square pews.

During the rectorate of the Rev. Arthur Whitaker, the present more churchly Altar was placed at the east end of the church and the old pulpit removed. This began an era of changes and improvements in the old edifice which reached its consummation when in the rectorate of

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

the Rev. R. H. Barnes the new chancel was added to the church and the beautiful memorial windows put in.

It is recorded that many improvements were made in the days of the Rev. W. A. Curtis and more recently during the rectorate of the Rev. B. T. Trego, after the fire which threatened the church.

In the early days of St. Peter's most people of the village were reckoned as Churchmen and in the "old book"

Honor to whom	we find recorded the names of the
Honor	great majority of the historic families
	of the town. Three names however

stand out from all the rest as those of men to whom we must give great honor for their work in those early days. Andrew Beers seems to have been the great leader in the work of organizing and building. It was upon his land that the church was built and tradition has it that he and his family presented the Church Circle to the parish. Stephen Bartow also deserves our gratitude for the fact that through his hospitality to the Missionary Priest Gardner, the first service was held and the seed sown which has borne such fruit. And there is Andrew Hurd, to whom they give testimony in words of thanks, that he was a faithful man and of much use in obtaining the money for the church building.

Old Trinity Church of New York city helped St. Peter's too, in its earliest days, furnishing \$500 for which was purchased the Glebe land of forty-six acres and also ten and one-half acres of land where is now the cemetery, on which was built the Glebe house or rectory.

Among the quaint customs noted in the "old book" and worth remembering, I find an agreement between the vestry and rector in 1798, whereby the rector is to



HOBART VILLAGE LOOKING EAST.

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

receive in consideration of part of his stipend "certain produce of the country, viz: good wheat at one dollar per bushel, weighing 60 pounds to the bushel; good butter at one shilling per pound; good pork at forty shillings per hundred." Then, too, in those times when spiritual gifts were not so easily to be obtained as now, we find a great appreciation of the priestly office, sometimes lacking nowadays—as when in the letter to the Bishop concerning the Rev. Philander Chase they say: "And further, we pray that when his age and qualification shall admit he may be ordained a priest, that we may as soon as possible enjoy the estimable privileges belonging to that office."

Historical Facts

The church has had two organs. The first was built here in the village and was placed in the gallery of the church. In 1855 it was replaced by the present one. The first organist was Miss Julia Perry.

The first bell was placed in the tower in 1830 and in 1855 was substituted the one which now sweetly calls us to join in heavenly worship.

In 1832 the present rectory was purchased. Many additions and improvements have been made to it since

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

then, chiefly through the work of the ladies of the parish. They seem to have been always doing something for the rector.

Many gifts and memorials have been, at different times, placed in the church—too many to enumerate here—but they are all to be found somewhere in the church today, the work of loving hands and loyal hearts.

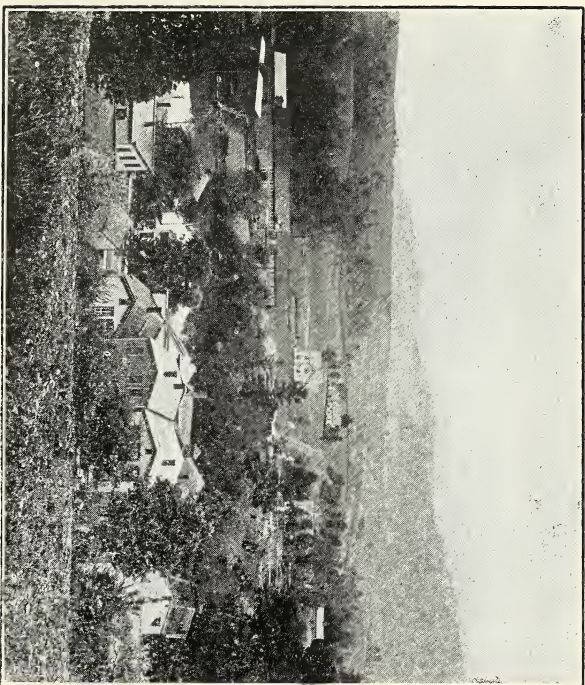
Two mission churches owe their existence to Old St. Peter's—Grace Chapel, Stamford, where services were first held in 1880, and the church in Bloomville, where a new and handsome building is now being finished.

The Sunday School was organized in 1828, by the Rev. Beardsley Northrup and has had an almost continuous existence to the present day. In 1880 and 1881 the school placed in the church a memorial window to departed teachers and pupils and presented brass vases for the altar. The two most recent good works of the school have been the placing of the large stone step in front of the church door, and a contribution to the fund for placing a furnace in the church.

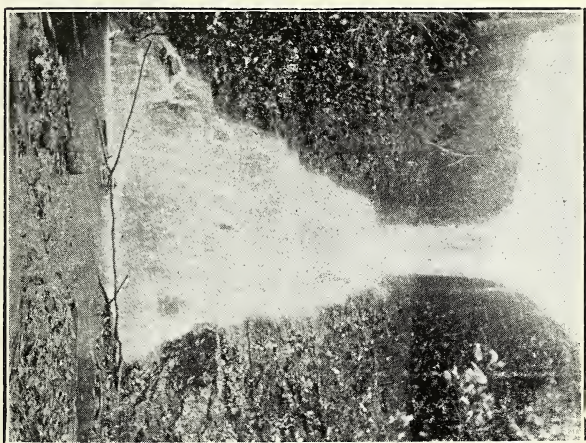
The organization of the women, known variously at different times as the Ladies' Aid Society, the Women's Auxiliary and the Ladies' Guild has been mentioned in the records many times for efficient work and useful gifts to the church.

Among the notable services held in St. Peter's church, we find the Benediction of the new sanctuary of the church, on the First Sunday after Trinity, June 19th, 1881, by the Right Reverend Bishop Doane, at which time 19 persons were confirmed. On September 26th, 1881 there was a Memorial Service for President James A. Garfield after his

**Notable
Services**



HOBART VILLAGE FROM MT. BOBB.



HOBART FALLS.

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

tragic death. On St. Peter's Day, June 29th, 1894, was held the Centennial Anniversary of the first church service in this village. The Rev. Thomas Burrows, rector, invited the eight living former rectors of the Parish to attend and take part in the festivities, as well as many others of the Clergy. It was a most happy occasion and of great interest to all the town.

On June 26th, 1889 this parish made an offering for the Johnstown Flood Sufferers through its rector, the Rev. J. A. Farrar.

During sixteen years no record was kept of the parish statistics, but using what have been preserved and basing the estimate for the rest on calculations made in 1894, we may say that in Old Parish Statistics St. Peter's 868 persons have been baptized and 574 confirmed. Also that there have been 270 marriages and 452 burials. To complete our record of parish beginnings I have found a note entered since the last history was written showing that the church was consecrated by Bishop Hobart on Thursday, September 2nd, 1819, at which time 40 persons were confirmed. It is also here noted that the first service was held in the new church on Christmas Day, 1801. The first stove was placed in the church in 1829. It seems a far cry to the modern heater now about to be installed in 1905.

One item of great interest remains to be recorded—the fire of Tuesday, February 12th, 1901. It was Town Meeting day and the polling place was packed with voters when the cry of "fire" rang through the streets, and a mad rush began up the hill, for the historic old church still has a warm spot in the affections of all the town's people. The fire, which was

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

caused by an over heated stove-pipe, was soon controlled and by the noble efforts of the hose company the church was saved from any damage which could not be repaired. During the spring of 1901 the interior of the edifice was redecorated, new carpets laid and the seats recushioned. The exterior was also repainted.

The parish seems to have reached the zenith of its prosperity, both material and spiritual, during the rectorate of the Rev. W. A. Curtis. Another period of great advance occurred during the rectorate of the Rev. R. H. Barnes.

One rector of this parish afterwards became a Bishop, the Rev. Philander Chase, who was Bishop of Ohio, from 1819 to 1852. He was the 18th Bishop of the American Succession and the fifth Presiding Bishop of the Church, which office he held from 1843 to 1852.

Five members of this parish have become Priests of the Church :

George D. Silliman, Rector of St. John's, Stockport, N. Y.

Frederick S. Griffin, Rector of St. Saviour's, Maspeth, N. Y.

George K. MacNaught, Rector of All Saint's, Harrison, N. Y.

George W. Farrar, Rector of Christ Church, Ottawa, Ill.

Alexander H. Grant, Rector of Zion Church, Fulton, N. Y.



A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

List of Clergy of St. Peter's Church

1794=1905.

Ebenezer Dibblee, D. D. Missionary, 1794.

Walter C. Gardner, 1796-97.

Robert G. Wetmore, 1798.

Philander Chase, 1799.

Joseph Perry, 1802-09.

Joseph Prentice, Missionary, 1809-11

Andrew Thompson, 1815-17.

David Huntington, 1818-20.

Charles W. Hamilton, 1820-21.

J. Peter Fisher Clark, 1821-22.

Beardsley Northrup, 1826-28.

Hewlet R. Peters, Missionary, 1829.

J. M. Tappan, 1830-32.

William Allison, 1832-33.

David Huntington, 1834-38.

Sturges Gilbert, 1839-41.

A. H. Cornish, 1841-43.

Sheldon Davis, 1843-48.

William A. Curtis, 1849-62.

Stephen P. Simpson, 1863-65.

A. Sidney Dealey, 1866-67.

John Boyle, 1867-68.

D. Ellis Willes, 1869-72.

Arthur Wittaker, 1872-74.

F. D. Jaudon, 1876-77.

Benjamin T. Hall, 1878-79.

Reginald H. Barnes, 1879-86.

John A. Farrar, 1887-90.

Eugene Griggs, 1890-92.

Thomas Burrows, 1893-96.

S. H. Meade, M. D., 1896-97.

Benjamin T. Trego, 1897-1902.

John W. Foster, 1903-04.

H. Landon Rice, 1904.

Robert N. Turner, 1905.

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

Officers of St. Peter's Parish

1905.

Wardens.

Robert McNaught, Senior Warden.

Orlando B. Foote, Junior Warden.

Vestrymen.

Hector Stewart. DeWitt C. Hager. William J. Calhoun.

Jehiel B. Borst. Roswell L. Barlow. William J. Grant.

William W. Kerr. Albert Kellerman.

DeWitt C. Hager, Treasurer.

William J. Grant, Clerk.

Mrs. H. J. Kniskern, Organist.

Ralph B. Kerr, Sexton.

Communicants 83.

Sunday School Superintendents.

William J. Grant.

Edward A. Ackley.

Sunday School Teachers.

The Rector. Edward A. Ackley. William J. Grant.

Mrs. W. J. Kniskern. Mrs. H. J. Kniskern. Mrs. W. W. Kerr.

Membership 36.

The Ladies' Guild.

President, Mrs. Robert McNaught.

Secretary, Mrs. W. J. Kniskern.

Treasurer, Miss Carrie Hanford.

Membership 20.

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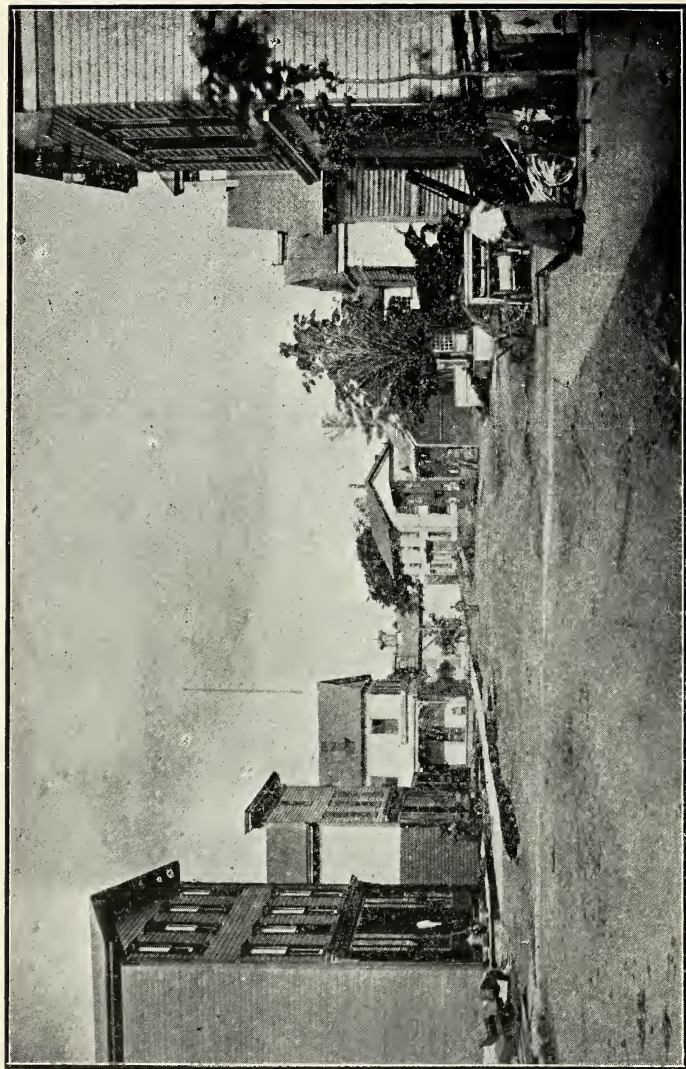
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MAIN STREET—The Beginning of the Reconstruction Period After The Big Fire.

Hobart Village

THE village of Hobart, nestling in the lap of the Delaware, among the beautiful western foothills of the Catskills, is one of the old historic settlements of the Empire State. To visit it now in the age of wonderful modern growth and improvement a stranger could hardly realize that a hundred years ago it was, as things were reckoned then, a busy commercial and manufacturing centre for a large region of country about. Today the village of 600 inhabitants, quiet and homelike, retains much of the quaint, oldfashioned character of bygone days which has been eternally lost among its younger and more modern neighbors—and what is their loss we believe is our gain.

The village is now possessed of beautiful streets, a fine school, three prospering churches, an efficient fire department, consisting of engine and hose companies, many handsome residences, a National bank, a weekly newspaper—THE HOBART INDEPENDENT, a prosperous creamery, owned by the Sheffield Farms-Slawson-Decker Company, a foundry, two blacksmith shops, a marble shop, a grist mill and saw mill, two hotels, and a number of good shops and is a regular station of the Ulster and Delaware Railroad. But better than all these, as a commentary upon the integrity and uprightness of its inhabitants, it takes pride in never having had a jail or lock-up within its limits. The churches include historic

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

Old St. Peter's, and the Presbyterian and Methodist houses of worship. The Rev. C. W. Kinney is pastor of the former and the Rev. F. D. Abrams of the latter.

The first settlers came here before the Revolution, but returned to their former homes during the war.

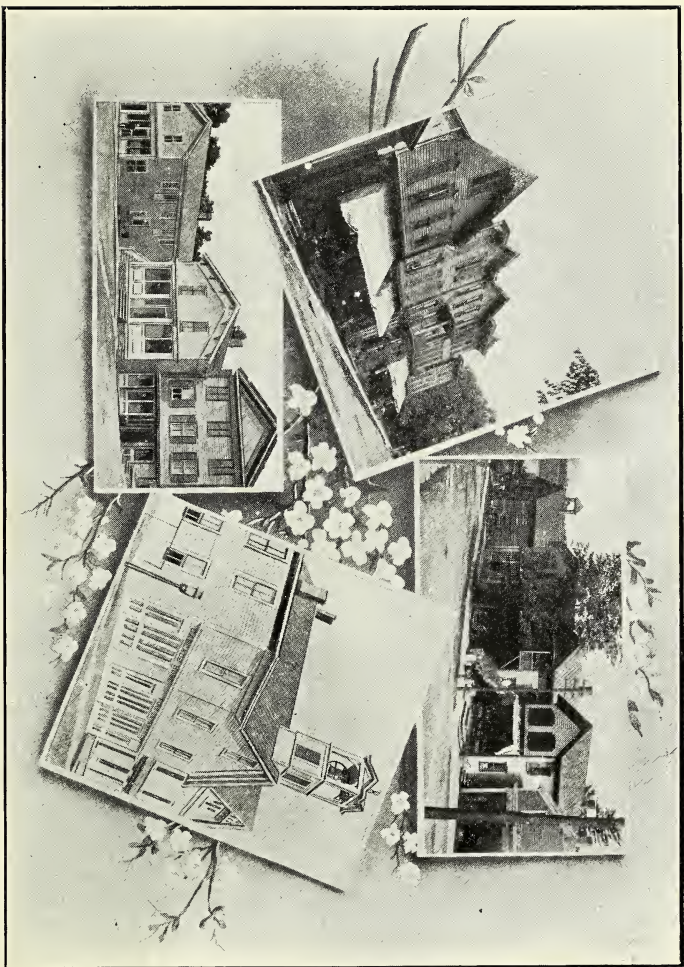
Founding of Hobart

Soon after peace was declared, the falls at this place, as a means of water power, attracted settlers and soon the hum of machinery was heard. The earliest name of record is Waterville, by which it was called earlier than 1790. In 1828 this was ordered changed by the Post Office authorities, there being another and larger Waterville in the State. "Roslyn" was suggested, but some village wag one night made that name seem ridiculous by printing "Goslin" in large letters upon a conspicuous fence. The leading citizens of the village at the suggestion of Rev. Philander Chase, rector of St Peter's, then decided to confer upon it the name of the good Bishop Hobart whom they all loved—and so it remains to this day, and will remain.

A nickname which was widely used at one time early in the last century was Tinkertown, derived from the large number of mechanics, blacksmiths, watchmakers, tinmenders, etc., who made this their headquarters, and who were all classed as "tinkers" in the common parlance.

The first tavern in the village was kept by George Foote where the Commercial House now stands. Others were opened before 1795. The first store in the place was kept by Cyrus Beers. Andrew Beers built the first grist mill, and it now remains after many changes. The carding mill and the woolen mill

Pioneers



MAIN STREET—BUSINESS SECTION, FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING AND MASONIC HALL.

1905.

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

were built by George Foote where the Robinson foundry now stands. Foote, who seems to have been somewhat of a monopolist in the matter of manufactures, also built a distillery, a saw mill and a foundry. John Foote was the first blacksmith. The pioneer tailor was one Gregory. The first lawyers of the village were J. B. Spencer and Andrew Beers, the almanac maker. The first physician was Dr. Joshua H. Brett, who was also the first judge of Delaware County. William Trotter was the first postmaster.

Hobart in the old days was the business centre for Kortright, Harpersfield, Roxbury, Bovina and Stamford. The manufacturing interest of the place was so large that five dams were required upon the river to supply the power.

Before Delaware County was set off that part of the village of Hobart lying east of the river was a part of

Incorporation of the Village	Ulster County and that west of the river was in Otsego County. For some years there was a controversy as to the advantages of incorporating the village and once when brought to an actual vote the project was defeated. In 1888 many former opponents of the project having changed their minds a meeting was held on Thursday, April 26th and by a vote of 72 to 56 it was decided to incorporate the village. Articles of incorporation were filed with the County Clerk and at the election held at Weeks's Hotel on Saturday, May 26th, 1888, Wm. W. Kerr being clerk, officers of the corporation were elected as follows: President, John S. McNaught, M. D.; Trustees, Sherman D. Kerr, John Robinson, John K. Odell; Treasurer, C. Ostrander; Collector,
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A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

Oscar B. Barlow. The present officers are : President, Charles Cowan ; Trustees, George J. Gallup, Fred M. Lyon ; Treasurer, Charles E. Hanford ; Clerk, W. J. Grant ; Collector, D. C. Hager.

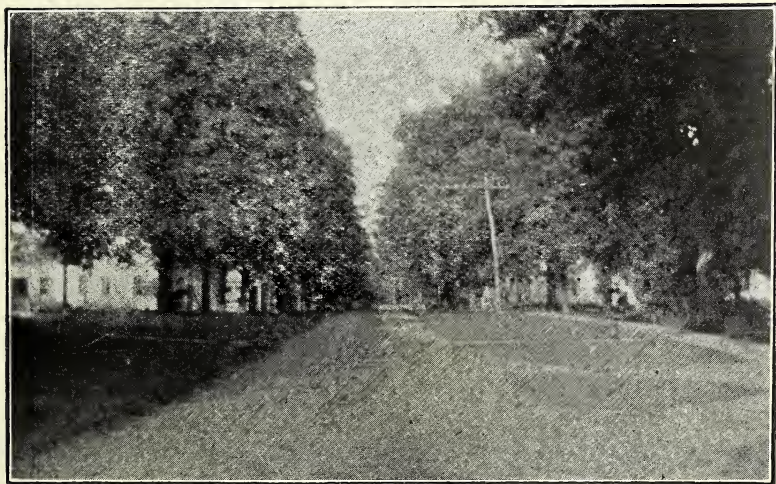
There are still standing many of the old buildings of the early days. The oldest are the original grist mill at the lower dam, St. Peter's church, and the residence of Miss Mary C. Foote—the old Foote homestead, all reckoning over a century of years. The last of the old stone houses is now the rear part of the Commercial House. Other old houses are the old Booth place at the foot of Church Hill, owned by T. B. Gould, the Dr. Reynolds house, a part of which was the home of the tanner whose tannery was near by, the Dr. Hanford place now owned by Miss Mary Sturges, St. Peter's rectory, the J. Lawrence residence, formerly belonging to Ransford Baldwin, the home of the Perry's, now owned by Mrs. Jaffrey, the old Marvine home, now a stable on Mrs. S. J. Lamb's place and the Andrew Beers's place part of which remains in the residence of David P. Dixon.

Hobart has always excelled in its attention to the education of the young. The first recorded school in the village was widely known as Waterville Academy and was situated on the present site of Locust Hill Cemetery. It became very efficient under the management of Mr. Kingsley. The building, the second story of which was used as Masonic Hall, was erected in 1805 and was burned in 1816.

One old school building still remains though removed from the original site. It is now the cottage on Maple Avenue, belonging to Mrs. E. G. Hanford.



MAPLE AVENUE.



RIVER STREET.

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

Formerly it stood on Church Hill and was also occupied by the Masons. As Hobart Seminary this school gave the advantages of education to many of the youths and maidens of early days.

In 1845 a building known as Hobart Academy was erected on Church Hill for Frederick Hanford. This became a flourishing school of 100 pupils. The building, since removed, has been used as a blacksmith shop and later as a dwelling and is now owned by Mrs. J. E. Bush. It is an interesting fact that here Jay Gould, then a poor boy, received his education, working his way by bookkeeping. There is also remembered a private school kept by Miss H. E. Rollins 25 years ago. The district schools about the village have always been very efficient.

Today Hobart High School stands as a worthy monument to the desires of the people of this village to receive the benefit of a liberal course of study. The school has a well earned reputation, not merely local, gained by excellent work in all departments and good results in examinations. The building, erected in 1887, has been greatly enlarged and in 1894 was remodeled and fitted with all modern requirements. It contains a useful library, to which additions are being constantly made. The present number of students is 136, all under the management of Isaac S. Carroll, Ph. B., as principal. The Board of Education in 1905 is Hon. James R. Cowan, president; A. S. Carroll, secretary; Daniel Burroughs, George M. More and Orlando B. Foote, trustees. The treasurer of the school is James B. Rich.

St. Andrew's Lodge, F. & A. M., No. 289 was

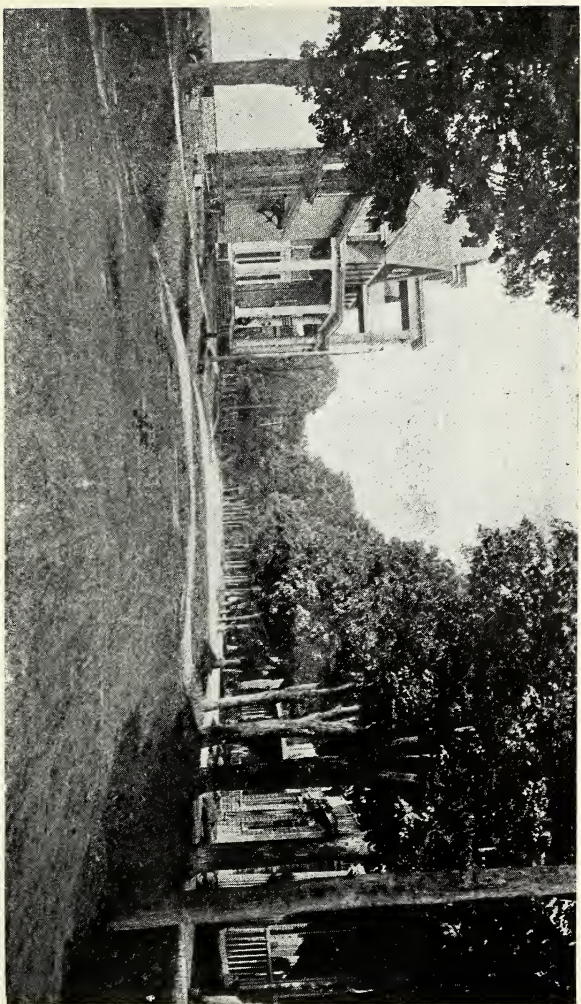
A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

chartered April 12th, 1796. One of the founders of St. Peter's Church, Andrew Beers, was the first Master. The lodge flourished until 1832 when it temporarily slept until awakened in 1852, since which time it has prospered. It ranks second only to St. Peter's Church among the oldest institutions of the village. For some years after 1805 the lodge room was located on the upper floor of the old Academy building, in the present cemetery grounds. Afterwards there was a Masonic Hall for many years on Church Hill, the building later removed to Maple Avenue to the Hanford property. From 1852 the Odd Fellows Hall was used until the present handsome Masonic Hall was built on Railroad Avenue. The hall now contains many relics of old times. The present master is Forrest J. Clark. W. W. Kerr is secretary and John Telford treasurer.

Hobart Lodge, No. 63 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was instituted at Hobart, March 7th, 1848. The old Odd Fellows Hall is therefore one of the historic buildings of the village. The first Noble Grand was C. C. Cole. The present officers are: Noble Grand, Dr. H. E. Cunningham; Secretary, Charles Wanamaker; Treasurer, J. E. Butler.

Prior to 1884 the only means of travel between Hobart and the outside world was by the slow and tedious stage. The village needed sadly just the impetus that only the modern methods of travel could impart. During 1883, after strong efforts, the necessary amount of bonds was subscribed and early in 1884 the right of way was secured and work began on the extension of the Ulster and Delaware Rail-

**The
Railroad**



MAIN STREET.

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

road from Stamford to Hobart. On Monday, September 1st, 1884, the rails and ties had been laid to Hobart station and the first engine was run between this village and Stamford amid great rejoicing on the part of the villagers. A number of prominent citizens of the village received the privilege of riding on this first engine trip. In the general enthusiasm over the great event a holiday was declared, buildings were decorated and noisy demonstrations of delight were made in the streets. The record of the diary of one young man upon this happy day says: "Spent the evening firing guns, ringing bells and blowing the engine whistle. Powder gave out at 11 p. m."

The first passenger train was run over the road to the fair grounds, near the village, early in the month of September. Now the road has been extended until its terminus is situated in the city of Oneonta. During the summer season there are twelve passenger trains daily.

Hobart has always taken pride in having good and sufficient protection against the ravages of fire. In the

The Fire early fifties there was in use a little old
Department hand fire engine, whose brakes could be
manned by four men on each side. The
water was poured from buckets into a hopper on the
machine and by the efforts of the men was thrown to a
considerable height. This engine must have been in use
in the first half of the last century. It was so small that
it has since been known as the "pocket engine." It
has since been destroyed.

The Clinton Fire Engine Company was organized February 26th, 1867 at which time D. C. Sharpe was secretary. Through Mr. Sharpe's efforts the present

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

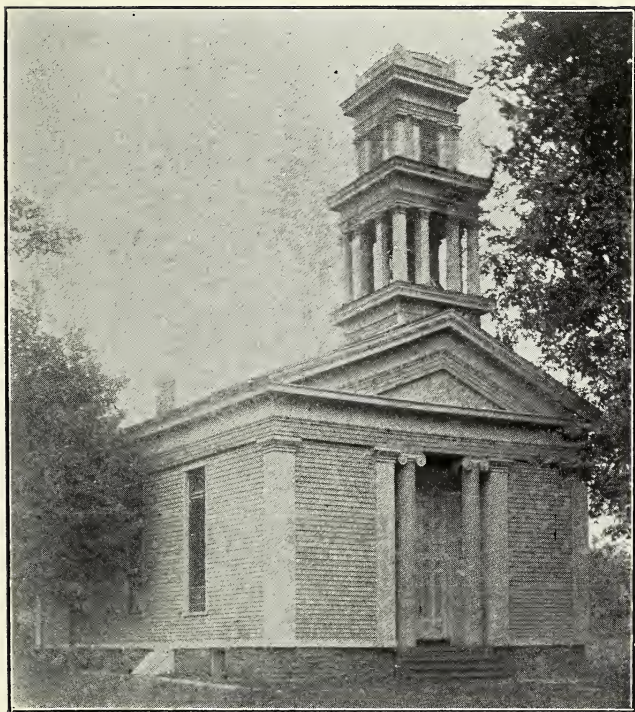
engine was obtained from New York, and Mr. Sharpe became foreman.

The Star Hose Company was organized July 30th, 1886 as an aid to the Engine company, as there were then no hydrants to which a hose could be attached. On January 8th, 1892, after the present handsome hose carriage had been purchased the name was changed to Cascade Hose Company, No. 1. C. A. Hoyt was the first foreman.

The Fire Department building was erected in 1884 and in 1892 the addition was made to accommodate the Cascade Hose Company. The building contains besides the accommodations for engine and hose carriage, pleasant reading and club rooms for the fire laddies of both companies. Charles L. Shackelton is the present efficient chief of the Fire Department, and Earl D. Russell and J. B. Kniskern are foremen respectively of the Engine and Hose companies.

Hobart has never sought by advertising its charms to lure the summer visitor, yet each year it is being sought more and more by those who have learned to appreciate its advantages of beauty and rest. Situated at an elevation of about 1700 feet above the sea level it has the bracing mountain air, with all the charms of the open country—and yet lacks few of the advantages of modern improvement. Miles of stone sidewalks line the streets and an excellent water system supplies that necessity to the village. In its streams the trout leap to the fly and the angler is satisfied. In the field of sports its base ball team is known as one of the best to be found outside the leagues of professionals. An efficient railroad, express,

**A
Summer
Resort**



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

telegraph and long distance, as well as home, telephone service keeps it in close touch with all the world. With all this who would not be proud of our good old village?

When Mrs. Andrew Beers died early in the last century, her body was laid away in a piece of ground

The belonging to Mr. Beers. This with some
Cemetery ground around it was afterwards deeded to St. Peter's Church to be used as the church burying ground. A part of the Glebe land belonging to the church was afterward added to this, as the "City of the Dead" began to grow, and still later in that century another plot was purchased to increase the ground. Here were laid to rest, one by one, as time went by, most of those whose homes and surroundings, occupations and pleasures it has been our duty to mention here.

In the last decade of the century past it became necessary that something be done to preserve the burying ground, and provide for perpetual care of the lots. A corporation to be known as the Locust Hill Cemetery Corporation was formed in December 1896 and on June 7th, 1897 St. Peter's Church, for proper consideration, deeded the burying ground to this association. Other land has since been added, and the beautiful cemetery which we now possess is the result.

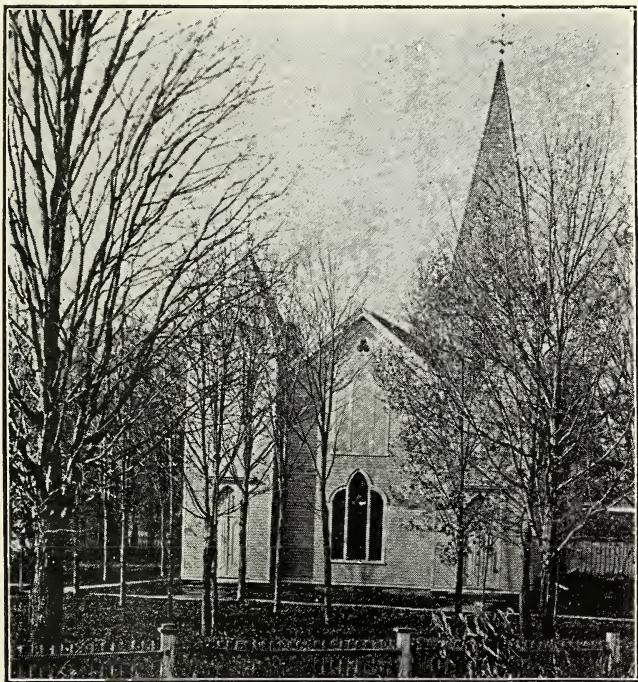
Before there was any special fire bell in the village the bell of Old St. Peter's always gave the fearsome
The alarm, from the highest point of the village
Mobart calling the brave men to fight their most
Fire dreaded enemy—the flames. At one o'clock in the night before Thursday, January 24th, 1884, the bell was rung vigorously for the most destruc-

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

tive fire the village has ever known. The blaze was first located in the Lawrence store. Soon the whole building became a mass of leaping, devouring flames—other buildings nearby caught the rushing destruction, until it seemed that the very heart of the village was being eaten out by an irresistible power. But the village firemen were not found wanting in this great emergency. The engine was placed upon the ice of the mill pond, the hose laid and the brakes manned and by much hard work, aided by the stillness of the night air, a considerable part of the business section was saved, which at first had seemed doomed. The square, during the progress of the fire, was filled with household goods and merchants' wares taken there for safety. At one time there was a great explosion, caused by the fire reaching a stock of kerosene and gun powder. It is said that the loss sustained reached a total of \$28,000. The energy of the villagers soon afterwards replaced all losses caused by the ravages of the fire—the best testimony to this being a sight of the fine modern buildings today standing where the old ones had been.

When war broke out between the North and South in 1861 patriotism ran high in Hobart, and the village nobly did its share to suppress the rebellion. In 1861 there were some enlistments, not many, but the next year, when it became evident that strong measures and large armies were necessary to end the war, men came forward eagerly. It was necessary to make a draft in this State to obtain the proper quota of enlisted men. Delaware county did not wish to have it said that it was

**Soldiers
in the
Civil War**



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

necessary to compel her sons to fight for the honor of their country. A committee of prominent citizens was sent to wait on the Governor and they were allowed by him twenty days in which to enlist a regiment from this county, before the draft act was enforced. Before the twenty days were over the regiment was organized and no draft was necessary.

About fifty men enlisted from Hobart and Company H was known as the Hobart and Roxbury company. The recruiting was done during the last week of August '62 and one day in the first week of September the boys met at the lower hotel and after a long good-bye and a hearty cheer from the crowds of friends gathered on the street, were driven to Delhi in wagons. At Delhi they remained four weeks for drill and mustering into the United States service as the 144th New York Regiment, before going to the front.

A number of these brave men were killed or wounded before the cruel war ended. After Lee's surrender the survivors were sent back to this state, and mustered out at Elmira in July 1865. Those who went to the front in '61 were in Sickles' Brigade of the Army of the Potomac throughout the war.

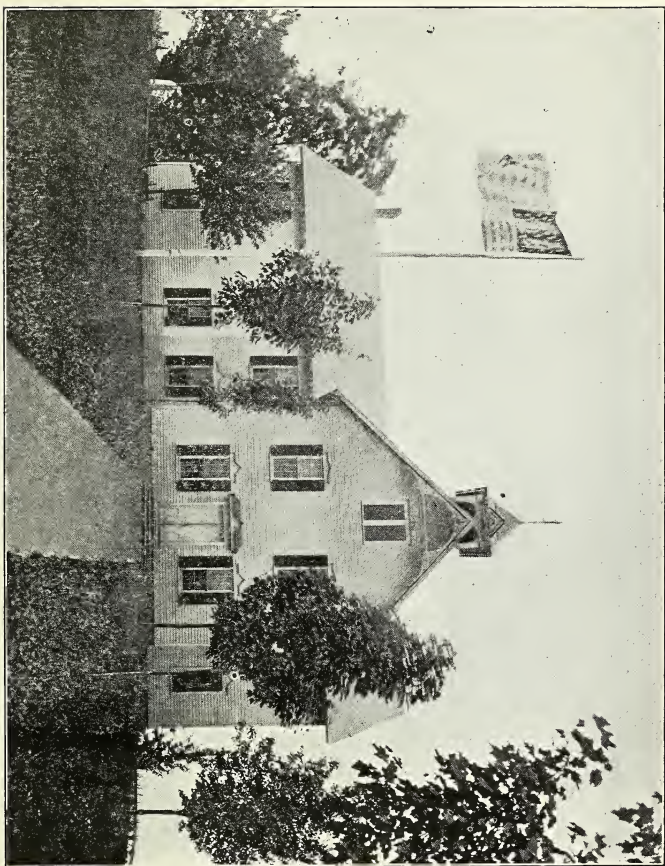
On that same day in September '62 when the boys were starting for the camp at Delhi, St. Peter's Church picnic was being held in the sap bush at Maple Bank, and many of the soldiers remember that last picnic dinner, and the affectionate farewell of good old Dominie Curtis whom they loved so well. To one of them at least he gave a Prayer Book which was carried all through the war.

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

Two old trees still stand about which many interesting traditions cluster. The great oak on the Church Circle is the largest and perhaps the oldest. One tradition has it that one of the good churchmen riding his horse to the Old Church in one of the first years of the last century used an oak switch as a riding crop and on entering the church thrust it into the ground, where it afterwards grew. This may not be as good history, however, as the story that has been once published that in 1802 Andrew Beers, the donor of the Church Circle, planted the tree, which was then about ten years old. The other old oak stands in front of the Rectory of St. Peter's today. It is said that most of the deeds under which the surrounding properties are held draw their lines from this ancient landmark. Certain is it that many generations of villagers have taken pride in the old tree and have been willing to make their paths and sidewalks curve about its gnarled old roots rather than do anything towards its removal.

Both trees have arrived at that hoary age, when youth and all things pertaining to it have been forgotten. If only they could speak what stories they could tell of the hopes, the fears and the pleasures, of those who have passed beneath their sheltering limbs.

There are in the possession of Mrs. John G. Hanford two old charts or maps of the village as it was originally intended that it should be laid out. Many of the streets have since been changed in direction, many have never been opened, and few if any of the old names remain. Church Hill was treated as the centre with streets radiating from it



HOBART HIGH SCHOOL.

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

in all directions. Some of the old names are Broadway, Pearl Street, Maiden Lane, Chapel, Queen, Centre, Pine and Water Streets. It would be well if an official chart of the village were made now and some of those old names retained.

Whenever it is possible to get one of the "old inhabitants" to talking of the days that are past, one tale is sure to be uppermost in his mind—that of the Christmas Eve Illumination in the church on the hill. Always in the story the snow is crisp and sparkling on the ground, the stars are shining brightly, and the sleigh bells merrily ringing as all the people from the villages and farms surrounding wend their happy way to begin the Merry Christmas at St. Peter's. It was the custom of their fathers before them, and they all honored it as one of the happiest times of the year.

The church was transformed into a bower of ever-green, with ropes and festoons of the Christmas color, with wreaths of holly and pine, with branches of trees, with even the great trees themselves, so that the forest was truly giving of its best to increase the joy of the Christ child's day.

But the crown of it all was the twinkling of the myriad candle-lights, from which the occasion took its name. For days the people had been dipping the candles in the old fashioned way, and on the day of the festival the sexton would go from door to door with his basket, and each one would drop in his contribution of candles for the festival. Each window was filled with the candles and every available space had its share.

A SOUVENIR OF OLD ST. PETER'S.

They stood about the pillars and in the sockets prepared for them. At the time best remembered there was a great chandelier, hanging from the centre of the ceiling, containing a pyramid of the tapers, ranged tier above tier. And each little taper was brightly shining forth its joy for that "unto us a Child is born."

The happy parties enter and fill the old church to the doors, all quiet and solemn now, to worship and hear the words of "that sweet story of old." In the first year of "Dominie" Curtis the text was: "The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary." That sermon is remembered by many today. So affected was one old man named Warren, who was seated in the gallery that when the wardens failed to pass the alms-basin where he was he rose in his place and threw a half dollar to the rector in the chancel, that he might not miss his offering.

Then when all was over as the lights one by one disappeared the people passed out into the bright night to ride away—and look forward to another Christmas Eve.

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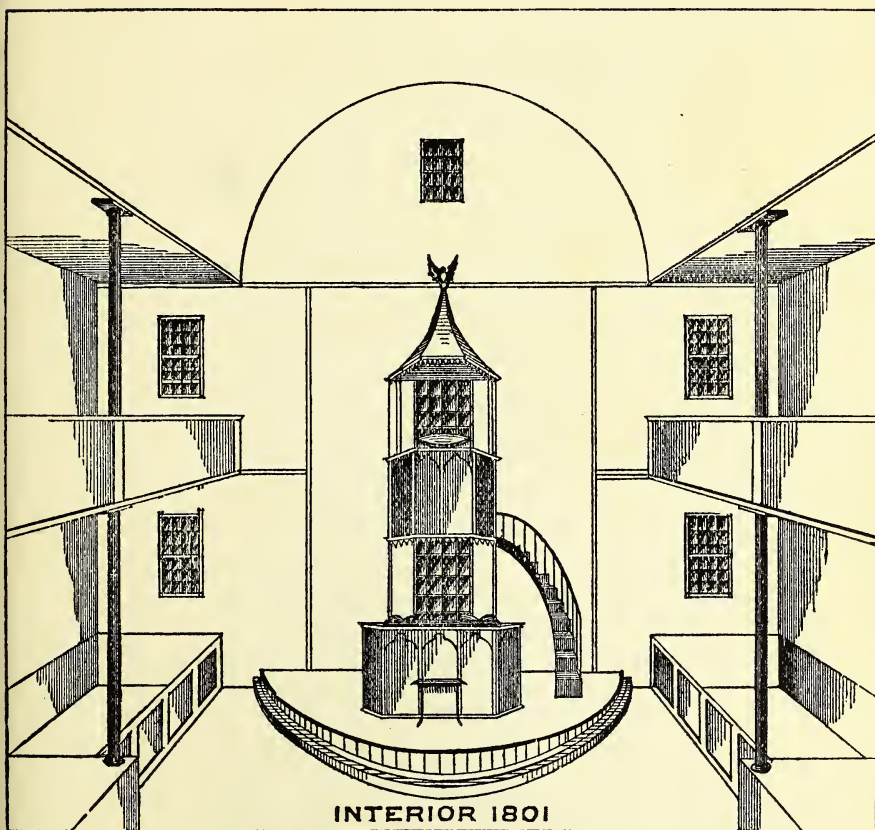
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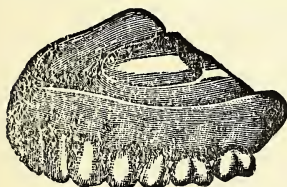
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" " 1897	801,390	56.	" " 1902	1,952,177	97
" " 1898	859,914	01.	" " 1903	1,882,685	02
" " 1899	1,015,224	85.	" " 1904	1,914,537	63
" " 1900	1,082,173	91.	" " 1905	1,922,327	01

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